

Absolutely Charleston

Destination Management / Tours / Special Events / Transportation

ACCEPTED

Legal

202-320-112

166008

The Public Service Commission of S.C.
101 Executive Center Dr.
P.O. Drawer 11649
Columbia, S.C. 29211

Att: George Parker
Gary Walsh

September 29, 2002



POSTED

2002-320-T

Dear Mr. Parker and Mr. Walsh:

I am writing to respectfully request exemption from the requirement that my Lincoln Town Cars and Suburban SUV be marked per current PSC regulations, for the following reasons:

1. These vehicles are used exclusively for charter services and not taxi services, just as limos are used. Limos are exempt from the ruling.
2. The purpose of signage, if I may assume the original intent, is to allow the public the opportunity to identify vehicles for hire. We do not provide services to the general public. Business clients call me for charter and we never perform services at random.
3. These vehicles are clearly identified for PSC Enforcement Inspectors with decals and LS plates.
4. There is no safe way to apply materials to the finish of these vehicles. These vehicles cost in excess of \$40,000 and the damage lettering causes depreciates the value significantly.
5. My clients, who include officials with law enforcement, government and corporations, use luxury vehicles for a purpose, prestige. Having signage on the vehicles diminishes that purpose.
6. Clients such as the DEA, Naval Investigative Service, U.S. Air Force, local, State and Federal Government do not want markings on vehicles they charter.
7. Clients who pay upwards to \$600 per night at Charleston Place Hotel, The Mansion and Market Pavilion Hotel do not prefer to charter vehicles with markings, and they do not want the high profile appearance of stretch limos.

This is not an attempt to disregard the purpose of identification. I am requesting the same status afforded limo services due to the fact that my vehicles are used in the same way, they are just shorter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Walter T. Thorn
President

Absolutely Charleston was recently honored by the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce as one of the area's Top 10 Emerging Businesses and was nominated for Small Business of the Year-2002

www.absolutelycharleston.com

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